

**Issue Docket**

**Conference Committee on House Bill 1**

**2024-25 General Appropriations Bill**

**Article VI - Natural Resources**

**As of April 24, 2023**

551 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Item	House 2024-25	Senate 2024-25	Biennial Difference	Explanation
<b>Cross-Strategy Issues</b>	VI-1	VI-1		<p><b>1) Rural Nursing Recruitment/ Retention Stipend Program</b> House provides \$1,850,000 to establish a Rural Nursing Recruitment/Retention Stipend Program that would provide \$15,000 stipends directly to eligible rural health care facilities for nurses working full time in their facility for three years. See also House Rider 30, Rural Nursing Retention and Recruitment.</p> <p><b>2) Mexfly Program</b> House provides \$1,321,354 in General Revenue with 7.0 FTEs to operate USDA equipment to run fruit fly trap lines in the Lower Rio Grande Valley to keep fly populations low and reduce treatments for trade purposes.</p> <p><b>3) Structural Pesticide Increases</b> House provides \$998,128 with 6.0 FTEs to expand the Structural Pest Control cost recovery program due to demand growth.</p>
Number of Full-Time-Equivalents (FTEs)	713.2	764.2		<p>House provides 15.0 FTEs which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) 2.0 FTEs for Rural Health programs</li> <li>(2) 7.0 FTEs for the Mexfly Program</li> <li>(3) 6.0 FTES for structural pest control</li> </ul> <p>Senate provides 66.0 FTEs which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) 60.0 FTEs for Mobile Agricultural Inspection Stations</li> <li>(2) 6.0 FTEs for Citrus Canker Quarantine Inspectors</li> </ul>
A.1.1 TRADE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	\$ 49,829,558	\$ 49,542,058	\$ 287,500	House provides \$287,500 for the Livestock and Go Texan program.

Item	House 2024-25	Senate 2024-25	Biennial Difference	Explanation
A.2.2 RURAL HEALTH	\$ 20,400,338	\$ 13,169,938	\$ 7,230,400	<p>a. House provides \$3,774,400 in General Revenue with 2.0 FTEs for rural and farmer health which includes:</p> <p>(1) \$1,000,000 to establish sustainable paramedicine programs within local emergency medical service organizations and to extend a COVID-19 pilot project through the 2024-25 biennium;</p> <p>(2) \$1,000,000 to establish a Rural Health Care Facility Data Pilot Program to assist rural hospitals and health clinics to analyze and utilize significant data and provide insight into outmigration analysis and care offerings; and</p> <p>(3) See Cross-Strategy Issue 1.</p> <p>b. House provides \$4,456,000 to use the existing balance of General Revenue-Dedicated Permanent Fund Rural Health Facility Capital Improvement Account No. 5047 (GR-D 5047) to allow rural hospitals to purchase additional equipment.</p> <p>Senate provides \$1,000,000 in GR-D 5047 for the same purpose.</p>
B.1.1 PLANT HEALTH AND SEED QUALITY	\$ 12,350,247	\$ 17,723,929	\$ 5,373,682	<p>a. House provides \$2,600,000 in General Revenue to replace Federal Funds from the US Department of Agriculture for critical entry point stations that are no longer available.</p> <p>Senate provides \$7,137,006 in General Revenue with 60.0 FTEs for five regional agricultural and livestock critical entry point stations to inspect plants coming into Texas to prevent the spread of plant pests and diseases that threaten the agricultural industry. See also Senate Rider 30, Agricultural and Livestock Entry Point inspection Stations.</p> <p>b. House provides \$225,508 in General Revenue for replacements of plant health funding removed from the Hemp program.</p>

Item	House 2024-25	Senate 2024-25	Biennial Difference	Explanation
B.2.1 REGULATE PESTICIDE USE	\$ 28,926,630	\$ 26,972,332	\$ 1,954,298	<p>c. Senate provides \$1,062,184 in General Revenue with 6.0 FTEs to provide additional inspectors and equipment in citrus canker quarantine zones contingent on the agency not shutting down the sale of citrus in quarantine zones. See also Senate Rider 29, Contingency Appropriation: Citrus inspectors.</p> <p>a. House provides \$966,000 in Pesticide Disposal Fund No. 186 to appropriate the remaining balances of the fund for pesticide waste and the collection of canceled, unregistered or otherwise unwanted pesticide products and containers.</p> <p>b. See Cross-Strategy Issue 2.</p>
B.2.2 STRUCTURAL PEST CONTROL	\$ 5,459,572	\$ 4,640,998	\$ 818,574	See Cross-Strategy Issue 3.
C.1.2 NUTRITION ASSISTANCE (STATE)	\$ 40,028,128	\$ 30,028,128	\$ 10,000,000	House provides \$10,000,000 in General Revenue to provide additional grant funds for food banks to acquire unsellable products from Texas growers for distribution to Texans. See also House Rider 10, Texans Feeding Texans.
D.1.1 CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION	\$ 12,109,654	\$ 11,521,444	\$ 588,210	<p>a. See Cross-Strategy Issue 1.</p> <p>b. See Cross-Strategy Issue 2.</p> <p>c. See Cross-Strategy Issue 3.</p>
D.1.2 INFORMATION RESOURCES	\$ 7,295,922	\$ 15,515,528	\$ 8,219,606	<p>a. Senate provides \$6,000,000 in General Revenue to provide a new licensing system to replace the current 20 year old system.</p> <p>b. Senate provides \$2,219,000 in General Revenue to use Department of Information Resources (DIR) Data Center Services (DCS) for servers, management and security services provided through the state data center and related contracts.</p>

Item	House 2024-25	Senate 2024-25	Biennial Difference	Explanation
Texans Feeding Texans	VI-6, Rider #10 Rider Packet, page VI-1	VI-6, Rider #10 Rider Packet, page VI-1		House rider requires \$5,000,000 each fiscal year out of amounts appropriated for the Surplus Agricultural Grant Program to be used to provide food and prohibits that amount from being used for facilities, increasing capacity, transportation, equipment, technology, personnel, administration, indirect administration, or to purchase generators.
Estimated Appropriation and Unexpended Balance	VI-7, Rider #13 Rider Packet, page VI-1	VI-7, Rider #13 Rider Packet, page VI-1		House rider provides authority for the agency to carry forward any unobligated and unexpended balances remaining as of August 31, 2023, from the Permanent Endowment Fund for Rural Communities Healthcare Investment Program and the Permanent Fund for Rural Health Facility Capital Improvement and appropriates those funds for the same purposes in the same strategies for the fiscal year beginning September 1, 2023.
Appropriations Limited to Revenue Collections: Cost Recovery Programs	VI-8, Rider #20 Rider Packet, page VI-2	VI-8, Rider #20 Rider Packet, page VI-2		House rider provides appropriation authority for any additional revenues collected for cost recovery programs above amounts identified in the rider each fiscal year of the 2024-25 biennium. The rider also provides appropriation authority to carry forward any unobligated and unexpended balances remaining at the end of fiscal year 2023 from appropriations made to cost recovery programs and appropriates those funds for the same purpose in fiscal year 2024.
Cash flow contingency	VI-12, Rider #29 Rider Packet, page VI-6			House rider provides General Revenue in an amount not to exceed \$5,000,000 each fiscal year for temporary cash flow purposes contingent on the receipt of Federal Funds and the approval of the Legislative Budget Board and the Governor. The rider requires the transfer and reimbursement to be made under procedure established by the comptroller for the Treasury to be reimbursed on or before November 30 of the following fiscal year.
Contingency Appropriation: Citrus Inspectors		VI-11, Rider #29 Rider Packet, page VI-6		Senate provides a rider making \$1,062,184 in General Revenue and 6.0 FTEs contingent on the agency not shutting down the sale of citrus in a quarantine zone and prohibiting the agency appropriations from being used to implement a retail nursery customer registry related to citrus canker containment

Item	House 2024-25	Senate 2024-25	Biennial Difference	Explanation
Rural Nursing Retention and Recruitment	VI-12, Rider #30 Rider Packet, page VI-7			House rider requires \$1,850,000 in General Revenue to be used to provide funding for Rural Nursing Recruitment and Retention Stipends with the intent that grant recipients be required to commit to a minimum of three years to receive the stipend.
Agricultural and Livestock Entry Point Inspection Stations		VI-12, Rider #30 Rider Packet, page VI-7		Senate rider requires the agency to use \$7,137,006 and \$60.0 FTEs to operate five regional agricultural entry point stations and specifies that the agency must work cooperatively with the Animal Health Commission.

554 ANIMAL HEALTH COMMISSION

Item	House 2024-25	Senate 2024-25	Biennial Difference	Explanation
Number of Full-Time-Equivalents (FTEs)	VI-12 215.2	VI-12 225.2		Senate provides 10.0 FTEs for agricultural and livestock entry point inspection station operations.
Schedule of Exempt Positions	\$ 194,807	\$ 169,807		<p>a. House increases the salary cap for the Executive Director position by \$25,000 each fiscal year and includes a cap of \$187,811 in fiscal year 2024 and \$194,807 in fiscal year 2025.</p> <p>b. Senate includes a cap of \$162,811 in fiscal year 2024 and \$169,807 in fiscal year 2025.</p>
A.1.1 FIELD OPERATIONS	\$ 22,181,633	\$ 24,993,993	\$ 2,812,360	<p>a. Senate provides \$2,496,360 in General Revenue and 10.0 FTEs for agricultural and livestock entry point inspection station operations. See also Senate Rider 9, Agricultural and Livestock Entry Point Inspection Stations.</p> <p>b. Senate provides \$316,000 in General Revenue for TAHC to conduct cattle fever tick mitigation clinical trials. See also Senate Rider 10, Cattle Fever Tick Mitigation Clinical Trials.</p>
B.1.1 CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION	\$ 3,694,120	\$ 3,644,120	\$ 50,000	House provides \$50,000 in General Revenue for a salary increase to the Executive Director position.

Item	House 2024-25	Senate 2024-25	Biennial Difference	Explanation
Laboratory Testing	VI-14, Rider #3 Rider Packet, page VI-8	VI-14, Rider #3 Rider Packet, page VI-8		House rider provides appropriation authority for additional General Revenue in amounts necessary to cover laboratory testing costs exceeding 10.0 percent of the estimated contract amount in the MOU between the Animal Health Commission (TAHC) and the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL) each fiscal year contingent upon: (1) occurrence of an animal disease outbreak; (2) TAHC certifying the outbreak and that laboratory costs exceed the estimated costs by 10.0 percent; and (3) TAHC issuing a finding of fact to the Comptroller's office and the Legislative Budget Board.
Agricultural and Livestock Entry Point Inspection Stations		VI-15, Rider #9 Rider Packet, page VI-8		Senate rider directs the agency to use \$2,496,360 in General Revenue and 10.0 FTEs in Strategy A.1.1, Field Operations, for TAHC to assist the Texas Department of Agriculture in operating five regional agricultural and livestock entry point inspection stations where TAHC can conduct livestock inspections.
Cattle Fever Tick Mitigation Clinical Trials		VI-15, Rider #10 Rider Packet, page VI-9		Senate rider directs the agency to use \$316,000 in General Revenue in Strategy A.1.1, Field Operations, for TAHC to conduct cattle fever tick mitigation clinical trials to evaluate necessary treatment frequency.

582 COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Item	House 2024-25	Senate 2024-25	Biennial Difference	Explanation
<p><b>Cross-Strategy Issue</b></p>	<p>VI-15</p>	<p>VI-15</p>		<p>1) <b>Targeted Salary Increases</b></p> <p>a. House provides \$23,612,866 in various General Revenue-Dedicated funds to increase the salaries of 35 targeted positions.</p> <p>Senate provides 47,225,731 in various General Revenue-Dedicated funds to increase the salaries of 35 targeted positions to the midpoint of the 2024-25 salary group pay range.</p> <p>b. House provides \$4,394,850 in various General Revenue-Dedicated funds to increase the salaries of all employees who do not receive a targeted pay increase under section a.</p> <p>Senate provides \$8,789,701 in various General Revenue-Dedicated funds to provide a net 20.0 percent pay increase to all employees who did not receive a targeted pay increase under section a. The increase would provide an 8.6 percent increase in fiscal year 2024 and no additional pay increase in fiscal year 2025.</p>
<p>Schedule of Exempt Positions</p>	<p>821,216</p>	<p>766,645</p>		<p>a. House provides an Executive Director salary cap of \$245,579 in fiscal year 2024 and \$257,858 in fiscal year 2025 in Salary Group 8.</p> <p>Senate provides an Executive Director salary cap of \$233,885 in fiscal year 2024 and \$244,493 in fiscal year 2025 in Salary Group 8.</p> <p>b. House provides a Commission Chair salary cap of \$211,050 in fiscal year 2024 and \$221,603 in fiscal year 2025 in Salary Group 8.</p> <p>Senate provides a Commission Chair salary cap of \$201,000 in fiscal year 2024 and \$201,000 in fiscal year 2025 in Salary Group 6.</p>

Item	House 2024-25	Senate 2024-25	Biennial Difference	Explanation
				<p>c. House provides the two Commissioner's with a salary cap of \$211,050 in fiscal year 2024 and \$221,603 in fiscal year 2025 in Salary Group 8.</p> <p>Senate provides the two Commissioner's with a salary cap of \$201,000 in fiscal year 2024 and \$201,000 in fiscal year 2025 in Salary Group 6.</p>
A.1.1 AIR QUALITY ASSESSMENT AND PLANNING	\$ 79,797,977	\$ 84,003,993	\$ 4,206,016	<p>a. See Cross-Strategy Issue 1.</p> <p>b. Senate provides \$1,400,000 from General Revenue-Dedicated Texas Emissions Reduction Plan Account No. 5071 (GR-D 5071) to cover initial administrative and grant costs for the Texas Emissions Reduction Plan program at the beginning of the biennium. The agency is required to reimburse GR-D 5071 after sufficient revenue is generated. See also Senate Rider 19, Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP) Cash Flow Contingency.</p>
A.1.2 WATER ASSESSMENT AND PLANNING	\$ 64,339,132	\$ 66,732,366	\$ 2,393,234	See Cross-Strategy Issue 1.
A.1.3 WASTE ASSESSMENT AND PLANNING	\$ 13,347,298	\$ 13,452,037	\$ 104,739	See Cross-Strategy Issue 1.
A.2.1 AIR QUALITY PERMITTING	\$ 36,931,722	\$ 38,990,898	\$ 2,059,176	See Cross-Strategy Issue 1.
A.2.2 WATER RESOURCE PERMITTING	\$ 29,951,364	\$ 31,726,161	\$ 1,774,797	See Cross-Strategy Issue 1.
A.2.3 WASTE MANAGEMENT AND PERMITTING	\$ 22,428,524	\$ 23,567,202	\$ 1,138,678	See Cross-Strategy Issue 1.
A.2.4 OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING	\$ 2,921,348	\$ 3,147,009	\$ 225,661	See Cross-Strategy Issue 1.
A.3.1 RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS MGMT	\$ 9,203,322	\$ 9,429,754	\$ 226,432	See Cross-Strategy Issue 1.
B.1.1 SAFE DRINKING WATER	\$ 48,272,440	\$ 49,718,817	\$ 1,446,377	See Cross-Strategy Issue 1.
C.1.1 FIELD INSPECTIONS & COMPLAINTS	\$ 118,569,420	\$ 125,737,151	\$ 7,167,731	See Cross-Strategy Issue 1.

Item	House 2024-25	Senate 2024-25	Biennial Difference	Explanation
C.1.2 ENFORCEMENT & COMPLIANCE SUPPORT	\$ 33,235,140	\$ 35,597,751	\$ 2,362,611	See Cross-Strategy Issue 1.
C.1.3 POLLUTION PREVENTION RECYCLING	\$ 6,565,228	\$ 6,749,283	\$ 184,055	See Cross-Strategy Issue 1.
D.1.1 STORAGE TANK ADMIN & CLEANUP	\$ 34,840,598	\$ 35,580,374	\$ 739,776	See Cross-Strategy Issue 1.
D.1.2 HAZARDOUS MATERIALS CLEANUP	\$ 51,206,046	\$ 52,454,993	\$ 1,248,947	See Cross-Strategy Issue 1.
F.1.1 CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION	\$ 54,427,142	\$ 57,172,729	\$ 2,745,587	See Cross-Strategy Issue 1.
F.1.2 INFORMATION RESOURCES	\$ 62,900,691	\$ 64,025,808	\$ 1,125,117	See Cross-Strategy Issue 1.
F.1.3 OTHER SUPPORT SERVICES	\$ 18,309,291	\$ 17,018,073	\$ 1,291,218	a. See Cross-Strategy Issue 1. b. House provides \$1,550,000 in various General Revenue-Dedicated Funds for increased costs of the Texas Facilities Commissions maintenance contract.
Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP) Cash Flow Contingency.	VI-23, Rider #19 Rider Packet, page VI-10	VI-23, Rider #19 Rider Packet, page VI-10		Senate rider includes a \$1,400,000 limit on the amount of funds that can be drawn down from the General Revenue-Dedicated Texas Emissions Reduction Plan Account No. 5071 for cash flow purposes at the beginning of the biennium.
Aggregate Operations.	VI-23, Rider #21 Rider Packet, page VI-10	VI-23, Rider #21 Rider Packet, page VI-10		House rider requires the agency to adopt best management practices for all aspects of aggregate production including water use and storage and blasting to minimize disruption. The rider also provides legislative intent that the agency work with other state agencies to develop the best management practices and that those practices are nonbinding unless otherwise provided by law.
Texas Emissions Reduction Plan (TERP) Annual Report.	VI-25, Rider #28 Rider Packet, page VI-10	VI-25, Rider #28 Rider Packet, page VI-10		House rider requires the agency to include, in its annual report, an analysis of the report created by the Department of Transportation on the use of TERP funds for congestion mitigation and air quality improvement projects in nonattainment areas of affected counties.

Item	House 2024-25	Senate 2024-25	Biennial Difference	Explanation
Air Monitoring Staff.	VI-25, Rider #29 Rider Packet, page VI-11			House rider provides legislative intent that the agency use \$250,000 in General Revenue-Dedicated Clean Air Account No. 151 and 4.0 FTEs each fiscal year to operate mobile air monitoring units in coastal regions.
Study on Uranium Deposits in this State.	VI-26, Rider #31 Rider Packet, page VI-11			House rider requires the agency to use eligible appropriated funds to conduct a study in conjunction with Texas A&M University-Kingsville on uranium deposits in Texas and how utilizing those deposits could lessen US reliance on foreign sources of uranium and to complete a report with recommendations and submit it to the Governor, Lt Governor, and Speaker of the House of Representatives.

**305 GENERAL LAND OFFICE AND VETERANS' LAND BOARD**

Item	House 2024-25	Senate 2024-25	Biennial Difference	Explanation
Number of Full-Time-Equivalents (FTEs)	VI-26 853.0	VI-26 856.0		Senate provides 3.0 FTEs for GLO's activities related to the Gulf Coast Protection District. See Senate Rider 22, Gulf Coast Protection District (GCPD).
B.1.1 COASTAL MANAGEMENT	\$ 538,679,804	\$ 541,679,804	\$ 3,000,000	<p>House provides \$499,989,236 in General Revenue in fiscal year 2024 for grants to the Gulf Coast Protection District (GCPD). See House Rider 22, Gulf Coast Protection District (GCPD).</p> <p>Senate provides \$502,989,236 in General Revenue in fiscal year 2024 for coastal management activities and grants to the GCPD. See Senate Rider 22, Gulf Coast Protection District (GCPD).</p>
B.1.2 COASTAL EROSION CONTROL PROJECTS	\$ 161,484,411	\$ 116,543,052	\$ 44,941,359	House provides \$44,941,359 in General Revenue-Dedicated Coastal Erosion Response Account No. 5176 (GR-D 5176) for the purpose of expanding the Coastal Erosion Planning and Response Act (CEPRA) program. See also House Rider 27, Appropriation: Coastal Erosion Response Account No. 5176.
C.1.2 VETERANS' HOMES	\$ 136,760,536	\$ 131,760,536	\$ 5,000,000	<p>House provides \$10,000,000 in General Revenue to support increased operation and contract costs at Texas State Veterans Homes (TSVH). See also House Rider 26, Texas State Veterans Homes (TSVH) Room Rate Freeze.</p> <p>Senate provides \$5,000,000 in General Revenue for the same purpose contingent upon the TSVH bond manager submitting a finding of fact to the Comptroller of Public Accounts and the Legislative Budget Board certifying that a resident room rate increase is necessary for the program to remain fiscally solvent. See also Senate Rider 23, Texas State Veterans Homes (TSVH) Room Rate Freeze.</p>

Item	House 2024-25	Senate 2024-25	Biennial Difference	Explanation
C.1.3 VETERANS' CEMETERIES	\$ 14,047,384	\$ 14,047,384	\$ -	<p>House provides \$1,082,000 in General Revenue each fiscal year of the 2024-25 biennium to support operational and salary expenses for the State Veteran Cemetery planned to be opened in Lubbock, Texas.</p> <p>Senate provides \$2,164,000 in General Revenue in fiscal year 2024 for the same purposes.</p>
Gulf Coast Protection District	VI-32, Rider #22 Rider Packet, page VI-12	VI-32, Rider #22 Rider Packet, page VI-12		<p>a. House rider directs the agency to use \$200,000,000 in General Revenue for making a grant to the GCPD through a cooperative agreement with a requirement that no more than 5.0 percent be expended by the GCPD for administrative and salary expenses.</p> <p>Senate rider directs the agency to use the same amount in General Revenue for making a grant to the GCPD with the requirements that:</p> <p>(1) \$300,000 be used for 3.0 FTEs each fiscal year to provide oversight and coordination with GCPD;</p> <p>(2) no more than 5.0 percent be expended by the GCPD for administrative and salary expenses inclusive of certain engineering fees and program management costs; and</p> <p>(3) the terms that allow the grant to be made to GCPD could also include terms of the Local Cooperation Agreement executed between the agency and the GCPD.</p>

Item	House 2024-25	Senate 2024-25	Biennial Difference	Explanation
Veterans' Programs Capital Projects	VI-33, Rider #23 Rider Packet, page VI-13			<p>b. House rider directs the agency to use \$299,989,236 in General Revenue to make an additional grant to the GCPD to provide state matching funds to meet federal requirements for studies and projects planned to be conducted by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The rider makes the appropriation for this purpose contingent on the USACE requesting payments to cover the 35.0 percent non-federal cost share and on the terms of the agreement requiring GCPD to report required information.</p> <p>Senate rider directs the agency to use \$300,000,000 in General Revenue for the same purpose with the same contingencies except that the terms of the agreement requiring GCPD to report required information is a contingency for dispersing the funds to GCPD instead of making the \$300,000,000 available to the agency.</p> <p>c. Senate rider requires the GCPD and the agency to abide by the terms of the Local Cooperation Agreement executed by the two parties in the disbursement of funds.</p> <p>House rider exempts appropriations from the Texas Veterans Homes Administration Fund No. 374 in Strategy C.1.2, Veterans' Homes, and Strategy C.1.3, Veterans' Cemeteries, funding certain capital project expenditures from capital budget requirements and limitations in the agency's bill pattern and in Article IX, Section 14.03. The rider also requires the agency to report any exempted expenditures in its Operating Budget and Legislative Appropriations Request.</p>
Veterans' Bond Programs	VI-33, Rider #24 Rider Packet, page VI-13			<p>House rider appropriates from the Texas Veterans Homes Administration Fund No. 374 all revenues, balances, investment income, and transferred amounts as authorized by, in accordance with, and for the purposes of Section 49-b of Article III of the Texas Constitution and Natural Resources Code, Chapter 164, for the purpose of making payments on bonds, notes, debt service, other obligations, public securities, credit agreements issued or entered into to fund financial assistance programs, and any proceeds from additional bonds issued.</p>

Item	House 2024-25	Senate 2024-25	Biennial Difference	Explanation
Texas State Veterans Homes (TSVH) Room Rate Freeze	VI-34, Rider #26 Rider Packet, page VI-15	VI-33, Rider #23 Rider Packet, page VI-15		Senate rider makes \$2,325,000 in fiscal year 2024 and \$2,675,000 in fiscal year 2025 from General Revenue appropriations in Strategy C.1.2, Veterans' Homes, contingent upon the Veterans' Land Board Bond Funds Manager certifying that a nursing home resident room rate increase would be necessary for the program to remain fiscally solvent and issuing a finding of fact to that effect to the Legislative Budget Board and the Comptroller of Public Accounts.
Appropriation: Coastal Erosion Response Account No. 5176	VI-34, Rider #27 Rider Packet, page VI-15			House rider directs \$44,941,359 in General Revenue-Dedicated Coastal Erosion Response Account No. 5176 (GR-D 5176) for the purpose of administering the Coastal Erosion Planning and Response Act (CEPRA) program and expanding response projects and studies. The rider also appropriates any remaining balances in GR-D 5176 each fiscal year and any amounts deposited into the account above the Biennial Revenue Estimate for the purposes authorized in Natural Resources Code, Chapter 33, Subchapter F.
Exemption from Certain Contract and Oversight Requirements		VI-33, Rider #25 Rider Packet, page VI-15		Senate rider exempts the GLO's Community Development and Revitalization Program contracts which utilize federal funds from the contract management and oversight requirements of Article IX, Section 17.09(c)(1).

**535 LOW-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE DISPOSAL COMPACT COMMISSION**

Item	House 2024-25	Senate 2024-25	Biennial Difference	Explanation
	VI-34	VI-33		
A.1.1 COMPACT ADMINISTRATION & OPERATIONS	\$ 886,454	\$ 1,076,454	\$ 190,000	<p>a. Senate provides an increase of \$100,000 in General Revenue-Dedicated Account No. 5151, Texas Low Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact Commission Account, to create a public education program; update the Commission's website; and educate industry members on procedures for generator authorization verification.</p> <p>b. Senate provides an increase of \$80,000 in General Revenue-Dedicated Account No. 5151, Texas Low Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact Commission Account, to retain outside legal counsel to represent the Commission in the event that the Office of the Attorney General is unable to do so.</p> <p>c. Senate provides an increase of \$10,000 in General Revenue-Dedicated Account No. 5151, Texas Low Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Compact Commission Account, to replace office equipment and update the website.</p>

**802 PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT**

Item	House 2024-25	Senate 2024-25	Biennial Difference	Explanation
<b>Cross-Strategy Issue</b>	VI-35	VI-34		1) <b>Texas Farm and Ranchland Conservation Program</b> House provides \$8,000,000 in General Revenue to increase the number and value of grants awarded through the Texas Farm and Ranchlands Conservation Program.
Schedule of Exempt Positions	235,000	299,813		House provides a maximum salary for the agency's Executive Director of \$225,206 in fiscal year 2024 and \$235,000 in fiscal year 2025 at Group 7.  Senate provides \$299,813 each fiscal year and increases the exempt position to Group 8.
A.2.3 COASTAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT	\$ 31,470,496	\$ 32,370,496	\$ 900,000	a. House provides \$1,500,000 in General Revenue-Dedicated Game, Fish and Water Safety Account No. 9 (GR-D 9) to expand the existing Oyster License Buyback Program.  Senate provides \$3,000,000 in GR-D 9 for the same purpose.  b. House provides \$600,000 in General Revenue to purchase a Coastal Fisheries research vessel. See also House Rider 41, Coastal Fisheries Research Vessel.
B.2.1 LOCAL PARK GRANTS	\$ 44,641,861	\$ 46,641,861	\$ 2,000,000	a. House provides \$36,083,815 in Sporting Goods Sales Tax (SGST) revenues for the purpose of providing Local Parks Grants and other related activities within the strategy.  Senate provides \$38,083,815 in SGST revenues for the same purposes.

Item	House 2024-25	Senate 2024-25	Biennial Difference	Explanation
				<p>b. House and Senate include Unexpended Balance authority and the estimated remaining amount (\$7,000,000) in House Bill 1 for SGST Transfers to Texas Recreation and Parks Account No. 467 (SGST 467) appropriated for the purpose of providing a grant for the Veterans' Memorial Park and Flag Park in the 2022-23 biennium.</p> <p>House includes Unexpended Balance authority in Section 8.82 of Senate Bill 30 for the same purpose.</p>
C.1.1 ENFORCEMENT PROGRAMS	\$ 125,680,139	\$ 129,680,139	\$ 4,000,000	Senate provides \$4,000,000 in Unclaimed Refunds of Motorboat Fuel Taxes (URMFT) to replace 40 mid-range law enforcement vessels.
C.2.1 OUTREACH AND EDUCATION	\$ 7,949,010	\$ 5,949,010	\$ 2,000,000	House provides \$2,000,000 in SGST revenues for outreach and education.
D.1.1 IMPROVEMENTS AND MAJOR REPAIRS	\$ 120,102,520	\$ 146,752,520	\$ 26,650,000	<p>a. House provides \$15,000,000 in General Revenue for a grant to the Battleship Texas Foundation.</p> <p>Senate provides \$25,000,000 in General Revenue for the same purpose.</p>
				<p>b. Senate provides \$16,650,000 in All Funds for deferred maintenance and construction projects at Sea Center Texas. This amount includes \$6,650,000 in GR-D 9 and \$10,000,000 in General Revenue-Dedicated Lifetime License Endowment Account No. 544.</p>
D.1.2 LAND ACQUISITION	\$ 45,722,794	\$ 27,725,794	\$ 17,997,000	<p>a. See Cross-Strategy Issue 1.</p> <p>b. House provides \$10,000,000 in GR-D 9 to purchase approximately 3,000 acres of priority migratory game bird habitat to expand or establish Wildlife Management Areas.</p>

Item	House 2024-25	Senate 2024-25	Biennial Difference	Explanation
D.1.4 STATE PARK CONSERVATION FUND	\$ -	\$ 500,000,000	\$ 500,000,000	Senate provides \$500,000,000 in General Revenue for deposit in the Centennial Parks Conservation Fund contingent upon enactment of Senate Bill 1648 and Senate Joint Resolution 74, or similar legislation, relating to the establishment of the Centennial State Parks Conservation Fund. See also Senate Rider 41, Contingency for Senate Bill 1648 and Senate Joint Resolution 74.
E.1.2 INFORMATION RESOURCES  Carryforward Authority for Supply Chain Delays          Coastal Fisheries Research Vessel          Transfer Authority: Appropriations for Local Parks Grants	\$ 36,296,684  VI-49, Rider #40 Rider Packet, page VI-16          VI-49, Rider #41 Rider Packet, page VI-17	\$ 36,293,684          VI-48, Rider #40 Rider Packet, page VI-16	\$ 3,000	See Cross-Strategy Issue 1.  House rider provides unexpended balance authority for any balances remaining from 2022-23 appropriations made for purchasing vehicles and equipment that were unexpended, unobligated, or that become unencumbered due to manufacturer cancellation or similar circumstance and requires the agency to report amounts carried forward, the number and model of vehicles and equipment purchased with funds carried forward, and any potential need for the expanded carryforward authority to be continued in the 2026-27 biennium.  House rider identifies \$600,000 in General Revenue appropriated in fiscal year 2024 for the purpose of purchasing a coastal fisheries research vessel.  Senate rider prohibits the agency from transferring appropriations out of Strategy B.2.1, Local Parks Grants, to other strategies.

Item	House 2024-25	Senate 2024-25	Biennial Difference	Explanation
Contingency for Senate Bill 1648 and Senate Joint Resolution 74		VI-48, Rider #41 Rider Packet, page VI-17		Senate rider makes \$500,000,000 in General Revenue appropriated to the agency in Strategy D.1.4, State Park Conservation Fund, for deposit into the Centennial State Park Conservation Fund to implement the provisions of Senate Bill 1648 and Senate Joint Resolution 74, or similar legislation, contingent upon enactment by the Legislature and subsequent voter approval of the Constitutional amendment. The rider provides legislative intent that the money in, and appropriated to, the Fund is dedicated by the Constitution for purposes of calculating the limit on the rate of growth of appropriations.
Study and Report on Shrimp Industry and Shrimp Resources	VI-49, Rider #42 Rider Packet, page VI-17			House rider directs the agency to complete an updated study on the state's shrimp industry and shrimp resources and report on the results of the study.

455 RAILROAD COMMISSION

Item	House 2024-25	Senate 2024-25	Biennial Difference	Explanation
<b>Cross-Strategy Issue</b>	VI-49	VI-49		<p>1) <b>Office of Public Engagement</b> House provides \$1,574,212 in General Revenue and 3.0 FTEs for the purpose of establishing an Office of Public Engagement which would host community outreach, townhall, and informational events; create educational materials, both printed and audiovisual; and assist in responding to questions, complaints, and requests received.</p> <p>2) <b>Gas Utility Filing and Auditing System</b> House provides \$4,250,000 in General Revenue to deploy an enhanced and modernized portal that allows for digital data management, submission of certain reports and filings, and payments.</p>
Number of Full-Time-Equivalents (FTEs)	1,124.6	1,121.6		See Cross-Strategy Issue 1.
A.1.1 ENERGY RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT	\$ 58,153,716	\$ 57,954,265	\$ 199,451	See Cross-Strategy Issue 1.
B.1.1 PIPELINE SAFETY	\$ 30,860,830	\$ 30,727,967	\$ 132,863	See Cross-Strategy Issue 1.
B.1.2 PIPELINE DAMAGE PREVENTION	\$ 1,227,458	\$ 1,218,959	\$ 8,499	See Cross-Strategy Issue 1.
B.2.1 REGULATE ALT FUEL RESOURCES	\$ 10,168,167	\$ 8,860,865	\$ 1,307,302	<p>a. See Cross-Strategy Issue 1.</p> <p>b. See Cross-Strategy Issue 2.</p>
C.1.1 OIL/GAS MONITOR & INSPECTIONS	\$ 64,237,454	\$ 63,908,445	\$ 329,009	See Cross-Strategy Issue 1.

Item	House 2024-25	Senate 2024-25	Biennial Difference	Explanation
C.1.2 SURFACE MINING MONITORING/INSPECTIONS	\$ 9,980,276	\$ 9,932,419	\$ 47,857	See Cross-Strategy Issue 1.
C.2.1 OIL&GAS WELL PLUGGING & REMEDIATION	\$ 252,616,414	\$ 252,101,332	\$ 515,082	See Cross-Strategy Issue 1.
C.2.2 SURFACE MINING RECLAMATION	\$ 4,158,790	\$ 4,139,272	\$ 19,518	See Cross-Strategy Issue 1.
C.3.1 GAS UTILITY COMMERCE	\$ 9,922,817	\$ 6,875,904	\$ 3,046,913	a. See Cross-Strategy Issue 1. b. See Cross-Strategy Issue 2.
C.4.1 WEATHER PREPAREDNESS	\$ 26,275,030	\$ 26,090,530	\$ 184,500	See Cross-Strategy Issue 1.
D.1.1 PUBLIC INFORMATION AND SERVICES	\$ 6,996,290	\$ 6,963,072	\$ 33,218	See Cross-Strategy Issue 1.
Underground Injection Control Modeling	VI-55, Rider #17 Rider Packet, page VI-18			House rider allows the agency to utilize funds appropriated in Strategy C.1.1, Oil and Gas Monitoring and Inspections, to contract for advanced modeling to draw seismic response areas, to set appropriate limitations on injection wells, and to implement statutory and regulatory requirements associated with seismic events.
Digitization of Historical Records		VI-55, Rider #17 Rider Packet, page VI-18		Senate Rider prohibits identified amounts appropriated to the agency in Strategy D.1.1, Public Information and Services, for the digitization of certain historical records, reports, and forms from being used to execute a contract with the Department of Information Resources unless the agency has consulted with institutions of higher education and determined that the digitization cannot be completed through one of these institutions in a cost effective manner that meets the needs of the agency.

Item	House 2024-25	Senate 2024-25	Biennial Difference	Explanation
Enforcement and Compliance Data and Public Information		VI-55, Rider #18 Rider Packet, page VI-18		<p>Senate rider requires the agency to use appropriated funds to publish and make the following information available on the agency's website quarterly:</p> <p>(1) Enforcement data, including inspection and enforcement activities, violations identified, and the final penalties assessed to operators.</p> <p>(2) Trends in enforcement data, including the number of complaints received and how the complaints were resolved, the number and severity of violations identified and sent for enforcement actions for each Commission rule, and the number of repeat violations found for each operator.</p>

**592 SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BOARD**

Item	House 2024-25	Senate 2024-25	Biennial Difference	Explanation
<b>Cross-Strategy Issue</b>	VI-56	VI-55		
		\$ 53,426,664	\$ 53,426,664	1) Senate provides \$53,426,664 in All Funds for Flood Control Dam Construction and Maintenance including \$34,000,000 in General Revenue and \$19,426,664 in Federal Funds.
Number of Full-Time-Equivalents (FTEs)	82.0	82.0		a. House provides 4.0 FTEs for Field Representatives. Senate provides 2.0 FTEs for the same purpose.
				b. Senate provides 2.0 FTEs for Flood Control Dam Maintenance.
A.1.1 PROGRAM MANAGEMENT & ASSISTANCE	\$ 22,737,786	\$ 17,428,822	\$ 5,308,964	
				a. House provides \$4,257,464 in General Revenue for Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Assistance which includes: (1) \$972,000 for Conservation Assistance matching funds; (2) \$216,000 for Conservation Activity Programs to offset the increased cost of completing the ten core conservation activities; and (3) \$3,069,464 for Conservation Implementation Assistance to reimburse SWCDs for expanded hours.
				b. House provides \$777,000 in General Revenue with 4.0 FTEs for field representatives to reduce to reduce the number of SWCDs each field representative covers.  Senate provides \$388,500 in General Revenue with 2.0 FTEs for the same purpose.

Item	House 2024-25	Senate 2024-25	Biennial Difference	Explanation
				c. House provides \$1,326,000 in General Revenue with 1.0 FTE On the Ground Conservation program.
A.2.1 FLOOD CONTROL DAM MAINTENANCE	\$ 25,685,951	\$ 33,685,951	\$ 8,000,000	Senate provides \$663,000 in General Revenue with 1.0 FTE for the same purpose.
A.2.2 FLOOD CONTROL DAM CONSTRUCTION	\$ 36,108,708	\$ 81,535,372	\$ 45,426,664	See Cross-Strategy Issue 1.
B.1.2 WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT PLANS	\$ 12,562,676	\$ 8,282,676	\$ 4,280,000	House provides \$4,280,000 in General Revenue for the Water Quality Management Plan program to maintain current planning and development levels.

580 WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Item	House 2024-25	Senate 2024-25	Biennial Difference	Explanation
<b>Technical Adjustments</b>	VI-59	VI-58		
	VI-62	VI-62		1) Update the strategy reference in subsection (b) of Rider 4, Authorized Transfers and Appropriations: Water Assistance Fund, from Strategy A.2.1, Technical Assistance and Modeling, to Strategy A.1.2, Water Resources Data.
	VI-67			2) Update the appropriation reference in subsection (a)(1) of House Rider 27, Agricultural Water Conservation Project Funding, from \$17,471 to \$71,471 in fiscal year 2024.
<b>Cross-Strategy Issues</b>				<p>1) <b>Targeted Salary Increases</b> House provides \$2,975,242 in General Revenue funding for targeted salary increases for certain unspecified positions.</p> <p>2) <b>MOF Swap for Existing FTEs</b> House funds administrative and salary costs of existing flood-related FTEs with \$18,040,993 in General Revenue.</p> <p>Senate funds same costs and FTEs with \$12,867,556 in Texas Infrastructure Resiliency Fund No. 175 (TIRF) and \$5,173,437 in Flood Infrastructure Fund No. 194 (FIF).</p>
Number of Full-Time-Equivalents (FTEs)	477.0	465.0		<p>a. House provides 3.0 FTEs for groundwater monitoring enhancements.</p> <p>b. House provides 8.0 FTEs for water data for Texas enhancements.</p> <p>c. House provides 1.0 FTE to manage the Agricultural Water Conservation Fund No. 358 (AWCF).</p>

Item	House 2024-25	Senate 2024-25	Biennial Difference	Explanation
A.1.1 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT INFORMATION	\$ 2,048,494	\$ 2,010,572	\$ 37,922	See Cross-Strategy Issue 1.
A.1.2 WATER RESOURCES DATA	\$ 9,902,415	\$ 6,084,184	\$ 3,818,231	<p>a. See Cross-Strategy Issue 1.</p> <p>b. House provides \$1,044,075 in General Revenue and 3.0 FTEs for groundwater monitoring enhancements.</p> <p>c. House provides \$2,651,936 in General Revenue and 8.0 FTEs for water data for Texas enhancements.</p>
A.1.3 AUTO INFO COLLECT., MAINT. & DISSEM	\$ 6,694,196	\$ 6,551,392	\$ 142,804	See Cross-Strategy Issue 1.
A.2.1 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE & MODELING	\$ 5,431,082	\$ 5,281,246	\$ 149,836	See Cross-Strategy Issue 1.
A.2.2 INNOVATIVE WATER TECHNOLOGIES	\$ 6,922,158	\$ 6,769,060	\$ 153,098	See Cross-Strategy Issue 1.
A.3.1 WATER CONSERVATION EDUCATION & ASST	\$ 19,843,012	\$ 4,042,002	\$ 15,801,010	<p>a. See Cross-Strategy Issue 1.</p> <p>b. House provides \$15,734,902 and 1.0 FTE for agricultural water conservation funding purposes which include:  (1) \$15,000,000 in General Revenue to be deposited to the AWCF and increase the fund balance for future appropriations of conservation grants.  (2) 134,902 in General Revenue and 1.0 FTE to manage AWCF project funding.  (3) \$600,000 in AWCF for conservation grants.</p>
A.4.1 STATE AND FEDERAL FLOOD PROGRAMS	\$ 108,126,084	\$ 108,012,204	\$ 113,880	<p>a. See Cross-Strategy Issue 1.</p> <p>b. See Cross-Strategy Issue 2.</p>

Item	House 2024-25	Senate 2024-25	Biennial Difference	Explanation
B.1.1 STATEWIDE WATER PLANNING	\$ 14,954,424	\$ 10,657,032	\$ 4,297,392	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. See Cross-Strategy Issue 1.</li> <li>b. House provides \$3,110,020 in General Revenue for additional grants to regional water planning groups.</li> <li>c. House provides \$1,000,000 in General Revenue to support activities of the Texas Produced Water Consortium (TxPWC).</li> </ul>
B.1.2 STATEWIDE FLOOD PLANNING	\$ 71,257,064	\$ 70,886,686	\$ 370,378	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. See Cross-Strategy Issue 1.</li> <li>b. See Cross-Strategy Issue 2.</li> </ul>
C.1.1 STATE & FEDERAL FIN ASSIST PROGRAM	\$ 715,876,779	\$ 65,140,495	\$ 650,736,284	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. See Cross-Strategy Issue 1.</li> <li>b. House provides \$150,000,000 in General Revenue to be deposited to the Rural Water Assistance Fund No. 301 (RWAFF), with a like appropriation of \$150,000,000 in RWAFF, for rural-specific water infrastructure project funding.</li> </ul>
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>c. House provides \$350,000,000 in General Revenue to be deposited to the FIF for flood infrastructure project funding.</li> </ul> <p>House provides an additional \$274,949,080 in General Revenue for the same purpose in CSSB 30.</p> <p>Senate provides \$400,000,000 in ARPA funding for the same purpose in CSSB 30.</p>
C.1.2 ECONOMICALLY DISTRESSED AREAS	\$ 840,910	\$ 805,112	\$ 35,798	See Cross-Strategy Issue 1.

Item	House 2024-25	Senate 2024-25	Biennial Difference	Explanation
D.1.1 EDAP DEBT SERVICE	\$ 72,549,364	\$ 71,630,227	\$ 919,137	House provides \$5,250,000 in General Revenue for debt service to support the issuance of \$100,000,000 in new Economically Distressed Areas Program (EDAP) bonds.  Senate provides \$4,330,863 in General Revenue for the same purpose.
E.1.1 CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION	\$ 14,537,960	\$ 13,953,148	\$ 584,812	a. See Cross-Strategy Issue 1. b. See Cross-Strategy Issue 2.
E.1.2 INFORMATION RESOURCES	\$ 16,811,560	\$ 16,559,166	\$ 252,394	a. See Cross-Strategy Issue 1. b. See Cross-Strategy Issue 2.
E.1.3 OTHER SUPPORT SERVICES	\$ 2,344,684	\$ 2,322,348	\$ 22,336	See Cross-Strategy Issue 1.
F.1.1 SALARY ADJUSTMENTS	\$ 4,469,465	\$ 4,469,465	\$ -	See Cross-Strategy Issue 2.
Texas Produced Water Consortium	VI-66, Rider #26 Rider Packet, page VI-19			House rider directs the agency to use \$1,000,000 in General Revenue in Strategy B.1.1, Statewide Water Planning, for the Texas Produced Water Consortium with the intent that the funds be transferred to Texas Tech University.
Agricultural Water Conservation Project Funding	VI-67, Rider #27 Rider Packet, page VI-19			House rider directs the agency to use \$15,134,902 in General Revenue in Strategy A.3.1, Water Conservation and Education Assistance, for grant funding and staff and administrative costs including 1.0 FTE to manage the AWCF. The rider requires the agency to deposit \$15,000,000 in General Revenue to the AWCF.

Item	House 2024-25	Senate 2024-25	Biennial Difference	Explanation
Contingency for SB 28		VI-66, Rider #27 Rider Packet, page VI-20		<p>Senate rider provides the agency access to the Texas Water Fund (TWF) contingent on enactment of SB 28 and voter approval of the constitutional amendment proposed in SJR 75 creating the fund.</p> <p>General Revenue funding of \$1,000,000,000 is included in the bill pattern of Fiscal Programs - Comptroller of Public Accounts for the purpose of being deposited to the credit of the TWF for use by the Water Development Board contingent on enactment of SB 28 and voter approval of SJR 75.</p>
Flood Project Funding	VI-67, Rider #29 Rider Packet, page VI-20			<p>House rider directs the agency to deposit \$350,000,000 in General Revenue in Strategy C.1.1, State and Federal Financial Assistance Programs, to be deposited to the FIF for flood infrastructure project funding.</p>